

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 FRB-01 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEAE-00 /088 W

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R 131522Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0388

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, RH, UK

SUBJ: CALLAGHAN VISIT TO LAGOS

SUMMARY: UK FONSEC CALLAGHAN FOUND NIGERIANS MODERATE  
ON RHODESIA AND WILLING GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER SETTLEMENT  
IS ACCEPTABLE TO PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. UK FONSEC CALLAGHAN CONCLUDED HIS AFRICAN TOUR WITH TWO-  
DAY VISIT TO LAGOS JANUARY 9-11. HIGHLIGHT OF BRIEF STAY WAS  
THREE-HOUR MEETING WITH GOWON JANUARY 10, BULK OF WHICH WAS  
DEVOTED TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RHODESIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. ACCORDING UK HIGH COMMISSION, CALLAGHAN PROVIDED  
GOWN WITH FULL RUNDOWN ON HIS CURRENT TRIP, INCLUDING SUMMARY  
ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH VORSTER. GOWON EXPRESSED SUPPORT  
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FOR CONTACTS WITH ALL PARTIES TO DISPUTE, SPECIFICALLY APPROVING

OF CALLAGHAN-VORSTER MEETING AND INDICATING FMG WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PRESENCE OF UK LIAISON OFFICER IN SALISBURY SO LONG AS IT CLEAR NO ACT OF RECOGNITION INVOLVED.

3. BRITISH FOUND GOWON GENERALLY MODERATE ON RHODESIAN QUESTION. GOWN, WHO WAS EXTREMELY WELL BRIEFED, SAID FMG SUPPORTS ALL THAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR IN CURRENT ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. NIGERIA, HE CONTINUED, WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO HELP, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED AND DOES NOT WANT TO "BARGE IN" ON THEIR EFFORTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD QUICKLY BUT DID NOT PRESS FOR SPECIFIC TIMING, AND SAID NIGERIANS DID NOT CARE WHERE SUCH MEETING TOOK PLACE -- EVEN INCLUDING SALISBURY. GOWON'S ONLY SPECIFIC COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF SETTLEMENT WAS EXPRESSION OF DISLIKE FOR QUALIFIED FANCHISE, BUT HIS ADVOCACY OF "ONE MAN-ONE VOTE" WAS TEMPERED BY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT DECISION WAS ONE FOR PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

4. WHILE RHODESIA DOMINATED SESSION, SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS ALSO COVERED. ASKED BY CALAGHAN FOR NIGERIAN VIEWS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC, GOWON SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO PROMPT SIGNATURE OF CONVENTION WITH ASSOCIATED STATES. ALTHOUGH GOWON GAVE NO COMMITMENT ABOUT NIGERIAN SIGNATURE, HE MENTIONED NO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND LEFT BRITISH WITH CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT FMG WOULD BE AMONG SIGNERS.

5. CALLAGHAN ALSO MADE PITCH ON OIL, URGING BOTH LOWER OIL PRICES AND REDIRECTION OF PETRODOLLARS INTO LONGER TERM INSTRUEMENTS IN LONDON MONEY MARKET. ONLY IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REPORTED BY BRITISH OFFICIALS WAS TO PRICE PLEA, WHERE GOWON GAVE STANDARD REPLY THAT IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT OIL PRICES REMAIN FIXED WHEN PRICES OF OTHER GOODS BOUGHT BY PRODUCING COUNTRIES ARE RISING.

6. IN ADDITION TO SESSION WITH GOWON, CALLAGHAN MET NUMBER OF NIGERIANS ON TWO SOCIAL OCCASIONS AND GAINED PUBLIC EXPOSURE THROUGH RADIO/TV INTERVIEW AND TWO MEETINGS WITH PRESS. HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE CAUTIOUS IN TONE, WARNING THAT RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT STILL "SOME WAY OFF" AND APPEALING FOR PATIENCE  
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AND OBJECTIVITY. CALLAGHAN MENTIONED POSSIBLITY OF ESTABLISHING SOME FORM OF CONTACT WITH SMITH REGIME, AND DECLINED DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALK WITH VORSTER.

7. PRESS REACTION TO CALLAGHAN TRIP MIXED. HE GOT GOOD COVERAGE FOR HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, BUT EDITORIALS TENDED TOWARD CARPING REMINDERS THAT BRITAINHAS FAILED SOLVE RHODESIAN PROBLEM OVER PAST DECADE AND SUGGESTION THAT CALLAGHAN PROMISES

BE TAKEN WITH GRAIN OF SALT.  
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